1: Gillin E-5 (1932-33) 1936 SR9 Carib SR9

being involves the human factor. This section is primarily concerned only with the secular aspects of law and justice, in so far as they can be distinguished. Examples of a positive and of a negative religious rule may be found in the section on Religion.

The infringement of a religious rule of law brings unpleasant results, but there is frequently no idea of obeying the rule as a good in itself. A Carib is surrounded by a vast army of spirits, spirits of the bush and of the streams. Some are characteristically mischievous or malevolent, others are merely finicky and jealous of their rights, which include the treatment to which they are entitled. A Carib must follow the rules of conduct which will keep him out of trouble with the spirits. When he wants positive responses from the supernatural powers, he consults a medicine man or piaiyen. It is practically impossible for a layman to attract the favorable attention of the spirits directly.

On the secular side, law and justice are highly personal. Only in cases, to be described later, in which an individual by the multiplicity and pertinacity of his offenses makes himself a public nuisance or a public menace do the members of the group take united action against him. And in such cases it appears that the group action is taken as the result of a sum of individual grievances rather than from a conscious sociological consideration for the welfare of the group as an entity.

Practically all secular offenses are punished by the victim, or as we would say, the plaintiff, who is assisted in certain cases by specialists having mastery of techniques involving spiritual powers. A man's brothers, real or classificatory, will assist him in these matters upon occasion. The latter practise furnishes the basis for a loose sort of collective responsibility. Signs of a formalized grouping of relatives are, however, lacking.

In a group such as this, where public law is all but excluded by private law, little attention is paid to abstract ideals of right and wrong. A Carib is only mildly interested in offenses suffered by other individuals. Adultery, for example, is regarded as a delightfully exciting game except when one's own wife becomes involved. Retribution is therefore the important factor in punishment.

The most serious offenses are homicide, poisoning, use of sorcery, theft, and adultery. Homicide is justifiable when used as retribution for a clear case of adultery or when it is obviously due to